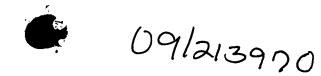
5



CONTEXT CONTROLLER HAVING INSTRUCTION-BASED TIME SLICE TASK SWITCHING CAPABILITY AND PROCESSOR EMPLOYING THE SAME

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A context controller for managing multitasking in a processor and a method of operating the same. In one embodiment, the context controller includes: (1) a time slice instruction counter that counts a number of instructions executed with respect to a given background task and (2) a background task controller that cyclicly executes a context corresponding to another background task when the number of instructions executed equals a dynamically-programmable time slice value.